(iranforester@yahoo.co.uk) -

<sup>-</sup>Thomasius

<sup>-</sup>Buckley

<sup>-</sup>T.M. Smith & R.L. Smith

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: (Autogenic S.)
     : (Allogenic S)
         :(Biogenic)
                                                               :(Succession)
  :(Progressive S)
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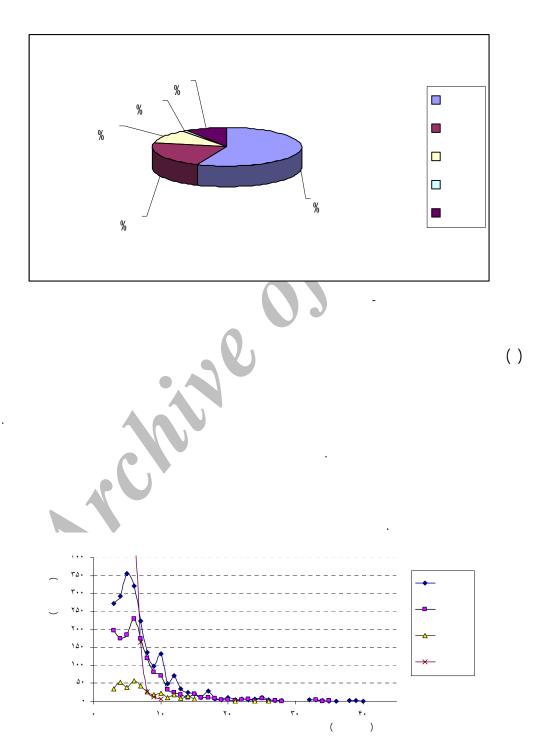
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                                 .(Vale, 1982)
                                                            David C. et al., )
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-Inference from Population Structure
-Historical Records
                                                              -Direct Observation
-Micro-Macro Fossil Deposits
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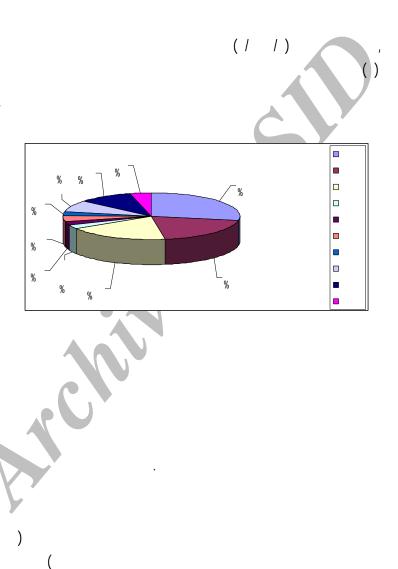
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## A Study of Oriental Beech succession in Fandoghlu Forest

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## **Abstract**

Fandoghlu forest with an area of 4378 ha is located at the end of Western Elburz mountain Chains-Northeast of Ardebil, Iran. It has extra importance due to it's high species diversity as well as it's standing as the most valuable natural forest in Ardebil region. As for maintainance, restoration and development of forests, accurate sylvicultural studies in forest stands succession is essential, this study was carried out while 5 broad leaved mixed stands (totally 404 ha) were investigated.

In order to study sucession, besides stands, structural characteristics (such as composition, layering and regeneration), historical materials including, analysis of Fandoglu natural resources comprehensive plan of 1984, conversations with old local people in the region as well as observation of similar sites in Astara region came into consideration.

According to this investigation Fagus orientalis has a meaningfull role in the forest stands as well as in their natural regeneration, not admitting the belonging of the site to corylus stands. This survey showes that due to increasing abundance of main species such as Fagus, Carpinus, Quercus, Sorbus and Acer along with decreasing abundance of pioneer species such as Corylus, Crataegus and Mespilus the existing stands are passing the preliminary levels of succession. At the end, according to this study, it can be concluded that these stands are progressing towards a climax of uneven-aged mixed stands of Fagus orientalis or Quercus castaneifolia.

**Keywords:** Fandoglu forest, Succession, *Fagus orientalis*, *Corylus*, Climax.

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